



State of Connecticut Department of Correction

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For Immediate Release Department of Correction to Close Prison

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The commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction, Leo C. Arnone has announced that the agency will close a second prison effective June 1, 2011.

"The closing of the Gates Correctional Institution (C.I.) in Niantic will save the taxpayers of the state some \$12.3-million dollars a year," said Commissioner Arnone. "Give our state's fiscal concerns, our agency has worked diligently to find efficiencies and consolidations while at the same time insuring the safety and security of our citizens."

The Gates Correctional Institution is a Level 2, minimum security, pre-release facility, which holds approximately 700 offenders. It was originally opened in 1981. The agency currently has enough open beds to disperse these offenders to other facilities across the state.

The facility is staffed by approximately 270 correctional professionals, consisting of a variety of job descriptions. There will be no lay-offs. The agency will work with these staff members to re-deploy them to other facilities in proximity to Gates C.I.

The department had previously closed the Webster Correctional Institution, in Cheshire, in January of 2010. That closing saved the state \$3.4-million a year. Counting Gates C.I. and Webster C.I., Connecticut has 18 correctional facilities.

The closings are made possible by the collaborative work of the state's criminal justice community in managing the size of the offender population, which currently stands at approximately 17,650. This is a 10 year low and substantially below the all time high of 19,894 which was reached on February 1, 2008.